



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Unusually large quantities of frozen fish are available in all sections of the country to ease the shortage of protein foods caused by strikes in the meat industry, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported today.

Holdings of frozen fish and shellfish, exclusive of those in private freezers, totaled 137 million pounds on January 1, a record quantity for this season of the year. Average holdings on January 1 are about 100 million pounds.

Fishery products now held in freezers and cold storage establishments include 105 million pounds of salt water fish, 12 million pounds of lake and river fish, and 20 million pounds of shellfish.

Especially large quantities of frozen fillets, favored by housewives because of the ease of preparing them for the table, are now available, the Service pointed out. Fillets of cod, haddock, mackerel, flounders, whiting, rosefish, and other species in the amount of about 30 million pounds are now in storage.

The Service also reported holdings of about 16 million pounds of salmon, 16 million of shrimp, about 7 million pounds each of mackerel and round and split whiting, and 5 million pounds of lake herring.

In addition to the large quantity of frozen fish, about 19 million pounds of salted and cured fish are on hand, the Service reports.

Holdings of frozen fish are well distributed throughout the country; 28 million pounds in New England; 33 million in the Middle Atlantic States; 10 million in the South Atlantic area; 28 million in the North Central States; 9 million in the South Central States; 22 million on the Pacific Coast, and 7 million in Alaska.

Holdings of frozen fishery products reached the highest point in history on December 1, 1945, when 148 million pounds were reported. Between December and April, inventories of frozen fish are normally reduced by about 59 million pounds, average holdings on April 1 being about 41 million. This year a reduction of nearly 100 million pounds could be made without carrying holdings below their normal springtime level.

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